

Executive Registry

4-4404

8 August 1953

Dear Admiral Byrd:

Beetle Smith has sent me your letter to him dated 4 August, and I am deeply grateful to you for your very kind remarks about the Agency and the recent attacks made on us, which I agree have been most unfortunate. However, to know that you are going to do all you can to back us up at this time is most heartening and I sincerely appreciate your actions.

I am just off on a trip to Europe today, and expect to return to Washington the first week in September. Therefore, I would appreciate your letting me know when you will be coming to Washington after that time in order that we might arrange to meet and have a chat. I am sure you realize what this will mean to me personally, and to the Agency as a whole.

Faithfully,

Allen W. Dulles

Rear Admiral Richard B. Byrd

O/DCI

Distribution:

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August 7, 1953

Dear Dick:

Allen Dulles will be grateful for your offer of assistance and I am transmitting your note on to him. I agree that attacks on CIA are unfortunate and that it is a wonderful organization. You know better than most that it is impossible to operate a secret service if there is to be outside attack on individual members. When an allegation is made, the chief of the secret service must be trusted to screen and control his own people. Both Allen Dulles and General Cabell are deserving of complete confidence.

Thanks for your kind words about the German job. I think we still have big dividends coming from that project.

It was good to hear from you and too long since I have seen you.

Faithfully,

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Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd (Ret.),
[Redacted Box]

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OFFICE OF RICHARD E. BYRD

THR

August 4, 1953.

General Walter Bedell Smith,
Under Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.



Dear Bedell: -

Will you please tell Allen Dulles that I am going to do all I can to help him with his problems. As you know, I am acquainted with many senators and have close friends who are close friends of senators. I also know some representatives quite well.

I think these attacks on the CIA are unfortunate. It is a wonderful organization; and the people should realize it, but secrecy is essential.

If there is any special thing that you have in mind that I could do, let me know.

The State Department has certainly done a grand job in Germany.

I still feel that the job of the Administration is far more difficult than even some of our leaders realize. I therefore think that every citizen should get behind the President, and criticize only constructively.

Harry is very fond of Secretary Humphrey and wants to help the President, so I know that he was sorry that he had to take the other side in the matter of increasing the national debt.

I hope all is well with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dick Byrd".

ORIGINAL COPY

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